

## METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)

### MINUTES

June 21, 2021

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held a meeting at Nashville Public Library main level conference room on June 19, 2021, with Commission Chair Clay Bailey presiding.

**Commissioners Present:** Dr. Clay Bailey, Chair; Dr. Jhennifer Amundson, Menié Bell, John Bridges, Christopher Cotton, Dr. Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Dr. William McKee, Gerry Searcy, E. Thomas Wood, and Linda Wynn, **were present.**

Davis Acker, Pamela Bobo, and Chakita Patterson **were absent.**

**Staff Members Present:** Tim Walker, Robin Zeigler, Caroline Eller, Jessica Reeves, Scarlett Miles, Susie Pallas, and Joseph Rose were present.

**Guests Present:** Metro Attorney Alex Dickerson, County Historian Dr. Carole Bucy (ex-officio), MHZC Commissioner Elizabeth Mayhall, and Ed Cole, Board Chair of Vine Street Christian Church.

Chair Dr. Clay Bailey called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present. Chair Bailey welcomed Ed Cole, Board Chair for Vine Street Christian Church, MHZC Commissioner Elizabeth Mayhall and new MHZC staff member, Joseph Rose.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Dr. Clay Bailey**

Chair Bailey presented the May minutes for approval. Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Hoobler provided a second, and the May minutes were unanimously approved,

#### **HISTORICAL MARKERS – Jessica Reeves**

Jessica presented two markers for Vine Street Christian Church for review. The first marker will be placed downtown at the corner of Church St. and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There will be text on the first side and a metal photograph on side two. Commissioner McKee commented that the official name on both markers should be The Baptist Church of Nashville, rather than Nashville Baptist Church. Jessica will confirm the name and edit the marker text as needed. Commissioner McKee made a motion to approve this text, it was seconded by Commissioner Hoobler, and it was unanimously approved.

The second marker for Vine Street Christian Church will be placed at 4101 Harding Pike, at the current site of the church. Commissioner McKee made a motion to approve this text with the confirmation of the correct name for The Baptist Church of Nashville, it was seconded by Commissioner Hoobler, and the marker was unanimously approved.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

Tim began his report by announcing the new employees who have just been hired—Joseph Rose and Kelli Mitchell. As for the Sunnyside project, Metro Procurement is continuing the process of bidding the work to general contractors and we are working with the architect to finalize the construction documents. Tim encouraged Commissioners to review the plans when they can. There will be another community meeting tomorrow night at the Cane Ridge Community Center to discuss the marker for the lynching of Samuel Smith. Chair Bailey will be representing the MHC and TSU professor, Dr. Lea Williams, will be representing the MHZC and We Remember Nashville. The meeting will be recorded for anyone who is interested, and we will provide a summary of what was discussed. CM Styles will attend and represent the Minority Caucus, but CM Rutherford has a conflict and will not be able to attend. Chair Bailey asked Commissioners to send suggestions or concerns to him before the meeting and Alex clarified that those suggestions or concerns should go to staff instead to avoid ex-parte communications. It was asked if the church will be in attendance. Tim responded that they can't attend, but they are supportive of the marker and would like the meeting notes and recording passed along. Commissioner Maddox asked for clarification on the recommendation that Chair Bailey be the only MHC member to attend the community meeting. Tim and Alex explained that it is especially important that Commissioners do not give the impression to the public of improper outside discussions or deliberations prior to contentious matters coming before the Commission. Commissioner McKee wanted to clarify that the Commission will be represented, so he asked if Chair Bailey will be an observer or participant at the meeting. Tim responded that Chair Bailey will be a participant and part of the program. Due to Chair Bailey's participation, Alex reiterated that it was a good idea that he was the only commissioner present at the community meeting. Commissioner McKee asked if the July MHC meeting will be held at the Sonny West conference room and Tim replied that we will be meeting at Sonny West or alternate locations for the next two years due to the Sunnyside construction. Caroline just received notice from THC that we have received a CLG grant for the Davidson County cemetery master plan. We had asked for \$24,000 and received over \$37,000, so it was very exciting news. Tim reported the Callen family's intent to demolish the four buildings they own at 170-176 Second Avenue. Discussion continued about alternatives, ULI's recommendation that the city include \$2.5 million in the mayor's budget to assist owners with repairs, and the Planning Department's work on that capital spending plan.

## MHZC REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

Councilmember VanReece has filed for a Historic Landmark for 435 Old Hickory and staff is conducting research. Extensive repairs to the exterior masonry and metal have been completed at the Courthouse. Now, they are beginning a project to replace the glazing with riot-resistant glass in the windows. Councilmember Roberts is considering filing legislation to create a new type of historic overlay which would just be for historic signs.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE – *Dr. William McKee*

The Nominating Committee consisted of Commissioners Searcy, Amundson, Bridges and Cusic, with Commissioner McKee serving as Chair and Chair Bailey serving as ex-officio. The recommendations of the committee are:

Chair - Commissioner Maddox

Vice Chair – Commissioner Wynn

MHZC Representative – Commissioner Bell

Commissioner Cotton made a motion to accept the slate and the slate was approved as presented. Commissioner Cotton noted that it was a historic slate of all women.

#### *UPDATE - Dr. Clay Bailey*

Commissioner McKee and Chair Bailey expressed thanks on the behalf of the Commission for the work of Commissioner Wynn and Dr. Bucy on the Votes for Women room in the Nashville Public Library. Chair Bailey also thanked Commissioners Bell, Wynn and Maddox on their willingness to serve the MHC.

#### *OTHER BUSINESS – Dr. Clay Bailey*

Mr. Cole thanked the Commission for its service to Davidson County. Chair Bailey announced the Ad Hoc Task Force meeting on Thursday at 4:00 p.m. at Fort Negley. Alex clarified that the discussion and vote for a pay raise for Tim should be part of the open meeting. Commissioner McKee asked when the last pay increase was and Tim responded that the last open range increase was 3-4 years ago. Commissioner Bridges made a motion to approve a 4% salary increase for Tim, and Commissioner McKee seconded it. Commissioner Bell asked how long Tim has been the Executive Director, and Tim responded that it has been 11 years. Commissioner Maddox referred to the Director's Report which mentioned that Council approved a 2% COLA increase for all employees. Tim stated that they also approved a 4% increase for all open range employees. Discussion continued about the difference between COLA and open range, the salary increase approved by Council, if the salary increases are included in the budget and that Tim has approved a 4% increase for the entire staff. Commissioner Maddox asked if the budget includes the 4% increases in it, and Tim said it did. Commissioner Maddox questioned why the MHC must approve the 4% increase if Council has already approved it, and other Commissioners explained that the MHC needs to approve any salary increases for Tim. Commissioner Bell commented on the value of the large volume of work done by staff. After the discussion, a vote was taken and the 4% salary increase for Tim was approved unanimously. Commissioner McKee thanked the Metro Government for providing funds for the renovation and reconstruction of Sunnyside and its grounds. Commissioner Bell added thanks to Metro Parks and Commissioner Cotton said he will put together something to give them this week to show the Commission's appreciation. Chair Bailey noted that Mary Falls, Senior Advisor to Mayor Cooper, will be leaving her role on July 1. She has been a tireless supporter of the MHC and historic preservation and Chair Bailey will draft a letter of thanks to her for her service.

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner McKee moved to adjourn, and Commissioner Cusic seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, July 8, 2021.

*Susie Pallas*